GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1751
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Harassment of Elderly
Malviya Prof. Chintamani

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidents of harassment and torture of old aged persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any scheme to improve the conditions of old aged people in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by Ministry of Home Affairs National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has started collecting data on cases reported under crimes committed against senior citizens (60 years & above) under the revised performae of 'Crime in India' since 2014. As per available data, a total of 18,714 cases were registered under crimes against senior citizens (60 years & above) during 2014. State/UT wise and crime head wise cases reported under crimes against senior citizens (60 years & above) during 2014 is enclosed at Annexure.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, "Police" and "Public Order" are State Subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory dated 30th August, 2013 on "Protection of Life and Property of Senior Citizens" which is also available http://www.mha.nic.in/sites/upload_fies/mha/files/Adviory_040913.pdf

(c) & (d): The Government of India announced the National Policy on Older persons (NPOP), 1999. The policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

Subsequently, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was passed in 2007 to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare. The Act provides for maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives; penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens; establishment of Old Age Homes for indigent senior Citizens; adequate medical facilities and security for senior citizens and protection of life and property.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP) since 1992 with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. Under this Scheme, financial assistance (up to 95% in the case of States of Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and North-eastern States and 90% for rest of the country) is provided to Non-Governmental/Voluntary Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. for maintenance of Old Age Homes, Respite Care Homes and Continuous Care Homes, Multi-service Centres, mobile medicare units, day care centres for Alzheimer's disease/Dementia patients, physiotherapy clinics for older person etc.

Keeping in view the recommendations made in the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999 as well as the State's obligations under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens, 2007, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched the National "Programme for Health Care of the Elderly" (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health related problems of elderly people. The major objectives of the NPHCE are establishment of Department of Geriatric in identified Medical Institutions as Regional Geriatric Centre for different regions of the country and to provide dedicated health facilities in District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs and Sub Centre levels through State Health Society.

Following facilities are being provided under the programme:

I. Geriatric OPD, 30 bedded Geriatric Ward for in-patient care etc. at Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs)
II. Geriatric OPD and 10 bedded Geriatric Ward at District Hospitals.
III. Bi-weekly Geriatric Clinic at Community Health Centres (CHCs).
IV. Weekly Geriatric Clinics at Primary Health Centres (PHCs).
V. Provision of Aids and Appliances at Sub-Centres.